

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn)
2. (Withdrawn)
3. (Withdrawn)
4. (Withdrawn)
5. (Withdrawn)
6. (Withdrawn)
7. (Withdrawn)
8. (Withdrawn)
9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Original) A method of producing a fiber, comprising the steps of:  
providing a porous fiber strand, said porous fiber strand containing voids,

and

filling the voids with particles in the size range of 1-500nm.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said particles  
are at least partially composed of at least one of the following:

- a porous material, or
- a nanoporous material, or
- a nanoporous powdered material, or
- a solgel derived material, or
- an ~~aerogel-like~~ aerogel derived material, or
- an aerogel, or
- an inorganic material, or
- aggregates of inorganic particle material, or
- an insulating material, or
- a thermally insulating material, or

a water repellant material, or  
 a hydrophobic material, or  
 a hydrophobic, nanoporous powdered material, or  
 a hydrophobic silica aerogel, or  
 laminates of aerogel powder, or  
~~other~~ metal oxide aerogels ~~such as~~ including alumina, zirconia, tantala,  
and titania, ~~etc.~~, or  
 a fire resistant material, or  
 combinations of said materials.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, including the step of:  
 filling the voids with a solution which precipitates particles as it dries, or  
 filling the voids with a solution containing a colloidal suspension of  
 particles which remain when the liquid dries, or  
 filling the voids with a dry powder by passing the fibers through the  
 powder in a manner in which the particles attach to said fibers, or  
 filling the voids with a dry powder by passing the powder over said fibers  
 in a manner in which the particles attach to said fibers, or  
 filling the voids with a dry powder by forcing dry powder to enter the  
 space using rollers, or  
 filling the voids with a dry powder by forcing dry powder to enter the  
 space using a press, or  
 combinations of said steps.

13. (Original) A method of producing a fiber made up of multiplicity of  
 smaller single fiber strands, comprising the steps of:  
 providing an assembly of said single fiber strands, said assembly having a  
 void volume between said smaller single fiber strands, and  
 filling said void volume with particles in the size range of 1-500nm.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said particles are at least partially composed of at least one of the following:

- a porous material, or
- a nanoporous material, or
- a nanoporous powdered material, or
- a solgel derived material, or
- an ~~aerogel-like~~ aerogel derived material, or
- an aerogel, or
- an inorganic material, or
- aggregates of inorganic particle material, or
- an insulating material, or
- a thermally insulating material, or
- a water repellant material, or
- a hydrophobic material, or
- a hydrophobic, nanoporous powdered material, or
- a hydrophobic silica aerogel, or
- ~~other~~ metal oxide aerogels ~~such as~~ including alumina, zirconia, tantala, and titania, ~~etc.~~, or
- laminates of aerogel powder, or
- ~~powder impregnated fabrics, with other fabrics where the aerogel layer provides the physical properties of repellancy, fire resistance, and thermal resistance as well as providing other barrier possibilities by absorption, or~~
- a fire resistant material, or
- combinations of said materials.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, including the step of:  
filling said void volume with a solution which precipitates particles as it dries, or

filling said void volume with a solution containing a colloidal suspension of particles which remain when said liquid dries, or

filling said void volume with a dry powder by passing said fibers through said powder in a manner in which said particles attach to said fibers, or

filling said void volume with a dry powder by passing said powder over said fibers in a manner in which said particles attach to said fibers, or

filling said void volume with a dry powder by forcing dry powder to enter said space using rollers, or

filling said void volume with a dry powder by forcing dry powder to enter said void volume using a press, or

combination of said steps.

16. (Original) A method of producing a fabric, comprising the steps of: providing a multiplicity of fibers, positioning said multiplicity of fibers in association with each other to form said fabric,

said fibers containing a void volume located either in said fibers or between said fibers or both in said fibers and between said fibers , and

filling at least a portion of said void volume with particles in the size range of 1-100nm.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said particles are at least partially composed of at least one of the following:

a porous material, or

a nanoporous material, or

a nanoporous powdered material, or

a solgel derived material, or

an ~~aerogel-like~~ aerogel derived material, or

an aerogel, or

an inorganic material, or  
 aggregates of inorganic particle material, or  
 an insulating material, or  
 a thermally insulating material, or  
 a water repellant material, or  
 a hydrophobic material, or  
 a hydrophobic, nanoporous powdered material, or  
 a hydrophobic silica aerogel, or  
~~other~~ metal oxide aerogels such as including alumina, zirconia, tantala,  
and titania, etc., or  
 a fire resistant material, or  
 combinations of said materials.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, including the step of:  
 filling said void volume with a solution which precipitates particles as it  
 dries, or  
 filling said void volume with a solution containing a colloidal suspension  
 of particles which remain when said liquid dries, or  
 filling said void volume with a dry powder by passing said fibers through  
 said powder in a manner in which said particles attach to said fibers, or  
 filling said void volume with a dry powder by passing said powder over  
 said fibers in a manner in which said particles attach to said fibers, or  
 filling said void volume with a dry powder by forcing dry powder to  
 enter said space using rollers, or  
 filling said void volume with a dry powder by forcing dry powder to  
 enter said void volume using a press, or  
 combination of said steps.